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ways fresh, vivid and trustworthy. The point of view is always sound and stable, the tone always indulgent and urbane. It is like Florence herself speaking with such wisdom and serenity as only old people and old countries know, never lax or cheap, never fretful or vituperative. The reader feels to an extraordinary degree, from the thirteenth century to the nineteenth, the real life of real folk in the world of homely detail and domestic duty. The style assumes in places an odd and not displeasing naïveté—as is not infrequent in translated work—but it is easy always and grows only the more intimate. The pictures cover seven centuries; they are unusual, all; new because they are so old. The most novel of the essays is that on “Good Examples and Good Manners” of the fourteenth century; the most sustained in importance is the biography of Tullia of Arragon; but the most charming is the last of all, which records the changing of the old order and the passing of the last, kindly, ineffectual Grand-Dukes of Tuscany.

These Jesuit letters* and other memorials of devoted men under persecution, though published half as a pious task, no doubt, and half for special students, make pleasant reading for amateurs if taken in morsels like cheese. The long-dead writers are both less rancorous and less exalted than might have been expected. Either they were cautious correspondents or they have been rigidly edited. But they are gallant gentlemen for the most part, whether rehearsing such rather puerile miracles as that of the young lady who said her prayers in the garden during a shower and was not wet or sketching as good a prison interior as any in the contemporary novels; and always they are incredibly quaint and human. It is good to remember that men have lived so sober, staunch and self-effacing.

Any full consideration of the admirable historical work Mr. Trevelyan is doing on Garibaldi† must be reserved for the end of the series of vivid and absorbing volumes, or, at any rate, for the end of the year 1860 and the exploits of the splendid Thou-

* “Memoirs of Scottish Catholics during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries.” By William Forbes Leith, S. J. 2 vols. London and New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1909.

† “Garibaldi and the Thousand.” By George Macaulay Trevelyan. London and New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1909.